



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 15, 1999

Mr. Terry Brown
CERCLA Regional Off-Site Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REQUEST REGARDING THE WHITE MESA URANIUM MILL

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am responding to your March 29, 1999, letter to me in which you requested information on International Uranium Corporation's (IUC's) White Mesa Mill, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) License No. SUA-1358. Your letter stated that you need the information to process a request from IUC to conduct an Acceptability Determination for the mill in accordance with the Off-Site Rule of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

The specific information requests and NRC responses are:

- * *Does the NRC have any information that an environmentally significant release of hazardous substances has occurred at the Facility?*

We have no information that any environmentally significant release has occurred at the Facility. This response is based on the following:

1. Discussions with NRC staff knowledgeable of the site have not identified any such occurrence.
2. Review of the last three years of NRC staff inspection reports of the Facility and of licensee effluent release monitoring reports has not identified any such occurrence.
3. The licensee provided a statement, dated April 12, 1999, that there have been no environmentally significant releases of hazardous substances from the White Mesa Mill.

Additionally, if such a release occurred in the past, it would have been addressed and resolved. Current monitoring of the site shows no evidence of past environmentally significant releases.

- * *If such release has occurred, is the release allowed by the Source Material License NRC issued to the White Mesa Uranium Mill or by the AEA; and has the release been found to pose a threat to human health and the environment?*

As stated, we have no indication that such release has occurred. Hence, this question is not applicable.

T. Brown

-2-

- * *Do any relevant violations exist at the ore pad, ore processing mill, or tailings cell number three?*
- * *Do any relevant violations exist at other units that affect the entire facility (e.g., failure to conduct waste analysis)?*

As of the last inspection, which was conducted March 22-25, 1999, there are no current violations at the ore pad, ore processing mill, tailings cell number three, or other units at the facility that are relevant to environmental releases. Three violations of low health and safety significance (and of no significance to environmental releases) were identified during the inspection. They relate to: 1) respiratory protection, 2) emergency drills, and 3) worker signatures on Radiation Work Permits.

I trust that the above information is responsive to your needs. If you have any further questions, please call me or Myron Fliegel, the NRC project manager for the white Mesa Mill. I can be reached at (301) 415-7238 and Dr. Fliegel at (301) 415-6629.

Sincerely,



N. King Stablein, Acting Chief
Uranium Recovery and
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: D. Frydenlund, IUC
M. Rehmann, IUC
W. Sinclair, Utah DRC



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

FAXED FROM THE
DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
(DWM/NMSS)

FAX NUMBER: (301) 415-5397

VERIFICATION: (301) 415-7319

1. TERRY BROWN
LOCATION: EPA

FAX #: 303-312-6044
VERIFY: _____

2. _____
LOCATION: _____

FAX #: _____
VERIFY: _____

3. _____
LOCATION: _____

FAX #: _____
VERIFY: _____

COMMENTS

NUMBER OF PAGES 2 PLUS COVER SHEET

FROM: KING STABLEIN, UELL/DWM

PHONE: 301-415-7238

MAIL STOP: _____